

A Description of the New Jersey Model of Home/School Partnerships for Student Learning

The PASS model refers to the term "parent" as any adult who plays an important role in a child's family life.

The Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS) is a New Jersey Department of Education model to develop and maintain highly participatory home/school academic partnerships focused on advancing student learning. The PASS model provides authentic opportunities to inform and enlist parents as academic partners who work with educators in new ways – ways that enhance student learning and achievement.

Academic partnerships between home and school have long been supported by clear research and recognized as a necessary paradigm shift in the field of education. The core concept within PASS is a powerful instructional strategy to enhance student achievement.

The PASS model provides customizable toolkits to support home/school partnerships based on elevated conversations about current academic issues of student learning and achievement. Each toolkit is designed with a theme and recommended opportunities for parents and educators to build home/school partnerships in the best interest of students' academic success. The toolkits contain documents that complement information about the state's academic standards and annual assessments for students. Each toolkit also contains support for systemic changes that can become a regular component of school improvement and student performance.

The PASS model is a low-cost / high-outcome means to enhance student learning and boost student performance that offers the opportunity for implementation as a realistic option for all schools and stakeholders.

Who should participate in the Parent Academies for Student Success?

Effective PASS implementation requires a new dialogue and commitment from every stakeholder group in the education community. Therefore, suggested partners include the following:



- Superintendents
- Boards of Education
- Principals
- Teachers
- Family Engagement Specialists
- Title I Facilitators
- Parents
- Students (where appropriate)

The narrative of education without parent/educator partnerships using academic contemplation is a student learning model that has outlived its time. PASS can become the systemic cultural change that enables student learning, assessment, and college and career readiness.

What PASS is and what it is not

The Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS)

- *IS* a New Jersey Department of Education model for highly participatory home/school partnerships with a central focus on engaging parents in advancing student learning. The model is flexible and customizable to ensure that parent's and educators' partnership time and energy are used solely for student learning and achievement.
- *IS NOT* a one-time meeting or group of activities where educators lead one-way communications or "teach" parents select information while the parents sit and listen. It is not an add-on workshop to school activities, such as music concerts, plays, etc.

NJ PASS is an innovative model and concept of partnership to engage parents in student learning and achievement.

The PASS model is different from other traditional parent involvement activities of the past. The PASS model is an academically focused partnership-based approach to student learning and achievement through parent engagement in education. PASS partnerships provide parents with the knowledge and skills necessary to be informed advocates for their child's education. Similarly, partnerships with parents provide educators with knowledge about student learning and development outside of school. When parents' expertise is combined with that of educators it can serve as an integral and highly valued part of the processes connected to teaching, learning and assessment.

PASS is a two-way participatory process. Side-by-side partners: parent knowledge, when used alongside teacher knowledge, provides for an enhanced educational experience for children.

In creating new high-level partnerships through the PASS model, the gap between parents and educators will change, begin to close, and more possibilities can emerge to position parents alongside teachers in the process of enhancing student learning and achievement. Student learning will be enhanced and student success levels will increase.

Given that the information parents know about their child's learning and assessments linked to and outside of school, their observations and feedback are different from what teachers know from classroom experiences

The PASS model provides teachers and parents with time, a place, and the ability to share student performance data on the PARCC assessment to set achievable and measurable, student-centered academic goals. Often in the past, educators pre-designed these conversations and shared them with parents as they sat through parent/teacher conferences once or twice a year. However, as the PARCC assessment is one snapshot of student learning and performance, the PASS model begins with a new understanding of the types of home/school partnerships that impact student learning. The cycle continues through the following stages, as appropriate, for each unique school community:

The PASS 4 model provides tools and supports for use by educators and parents so that they can build partnerships around student learning, assessment, and achievement.

1. An evaluation of current home/school relationships and how they impact student achievement.
2. Educators and parents exchange and discuss academic information – student learning, assessment and achievement).
3. Teachers and parents build partnerships to develop student learning goals and support.
4. Home and school communicate about progress and support for self-regulated student learning.
5. Educators and parents develop student learning goals and strategies for use outside of school.
6. School-to-home coaching is based on student learning strategies and assessment data.
7. Parents implement student learning strategies developed in partnership with teachers.
8. Home and school communicate to provide feedback and exchange information.
9. Parents support, observe and monitor early signs of the student's self-regulated learning.
10. Parents share feedback with teachers.
11. Teachers consider parents' feedback about students' demonstrated abilities outside of school.
12. Teachers combine parent feedback with class performance.
13. Teachers use multiple sources of data to inform and adjust instruction.
14. Students are assessed with PARCC and learning is measured as it aligns to standards and grade-level expectations.
15. Teachers, parents and students partner to shape and refine the students' learning goals for the future.

*The New Jersey Department of Education's model for home/school partnerships – **The Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS)** provides documents and support tools intended to complement information about the state's academic standards and annual assessments for students. The PASS model provides resources, materials, and opportunities for parents and educators to build home/school partnerships in the best interest of students' academic success. For information on the NJDOE PASS model go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/toolkit/>. Please send questions to: informccss@doe.state.nj.us.*